

My name is Leslie M. Billy, I was born in Chicago, Illinois to Robert L. Billy and Maryann Morrison. I am the youngest of five children but also had to share that distinguished honor with my twin sister. My mother moved us to Hertel when I was two years old to join our family that also moved back from the windy city. I grew up on the Big Sand Lake Reservation, from which I attended and graduated from Siren High School. I have one son, three siblings, and eight nieces and nephews. That, I attribute to my decision to run for a seat on Tribal Council. I have worked for the St. Croix Tribe for 28 years and have two associate degrees, one in science and one in liberal arts, and it appears that I am not planning on going anywhere anytime soon.

I am a candidate that has always taken care of my fiscal responsibilities diligently and I plan on keeping that same standard if I were to be elected. For those that don't know me I am my mother's child; I live by that code she instilled in me, honesty, and integrity. Maryann Morrison taught us life lessons that will remain within us for the rest of our lives. She taught us by the way she lived her life and carried herself, she lived her life helping those around her. We did not have a lot growing up, but for what little we had, she never hesitated to share with people less fortunate. I once thought she cared too much and was honest to a fault, and I felt she was just too giving... here I sit with the same mentality, innately unable to shake the need to help when or where I can. I feel I cannot keep her strength, her belief, and ideals to myself. I feel I don't have anything to lose, but everything to gain. I am a candidate that will not make promises except, I will try my best in this elected position, I will work for our people and will represent our nation in the highest possible manner.

My name is Niigaaniigaabowikwe, I am running for St. Croix Tribal Council 2023. As a candidate I understand the problems that plague our tribe now. I realize the extent of the drug epidemic and how it is affecting our tribal communities. I have personally been affected by this also, having lost a beloved nephew in 2016 and my older sister in 2021. This is an issue that is at the forefront of my platform, I am of the zero-tolerance train of thought. I am abundantly aware of the housing needs in our communities as well. I think the previous council did a great job of working on this problem but as with many issues there is more work to be done. I believe after ARPA funding and the Covid Relief money has been spoken for, the tribe needs to work towards achieving sustainable development plans, improving existing infrastructure, concentrating on educational opportunities, and spending, and expanding marketing activities for all enterprises. The Tribe needs to embrace change and modernization all the while hold onto our traditions. I am a firm believer in engaged leadership, transparency, and above all a chance to empower our members without enabling them.